

**CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

In this Response, claims 46 and 53 have been amended, claim 54 has been added, and claims 18-45 and 52 have been canceled.

Claims 1-17 (canceled)

Claims 18-45 (canceled)

46. (currently amended) A device for supporting a stent, comprising:  
a mandrel capable of extending through a hollow body of a stent, the mandrel being in communication with a rotational device for rotating the mandrel; and  
a gear supported by the mandrel having a diameter greater than a diameter of the mandrel and positioned on the mandrel to support the stent on an inner surface of the stent and to provide sufficient torque to the stent for rotating the stent during a coating process, wherein a gear axis through a center of the gear is parallel or substantially parallel to and offset from a stent axis through a center of the stent.

47. (original) The device of Claim 46, wherein the positioning of the gear on the mandrel is adjustable.

48. (original) The device of Claim 46, wherein the diameter of the gear is less than an inner diameter of the stent.

49. (original) The device of Claim 46, wherein an outer surface of the mandrel does not contact the inner surface of the stent.

50. (previously presented) A device for supporting a stent during a coating process, comprising:

a mandrel extending through a hollow body of a stent; and

a gear supported by the mandrel having a diameter greater than a diameter of the mandrel and a diameter smaller than an inner diameter of the stent as positioned on the gear to allow for spacing between a majority of an outer periphery of the gear and an inner surface of the stent for minimizing contact between the outer periphery of the gear and the inner surface of the stent, the gear configured to provide support to the inner surface of the stent during a coating process.

51. (original) A device for supporting a stent, comprising:

a mandrel to support a stent during a process of forming a coating on the stent; and

a gear adjustably supported by the mandrel and configured to contact an inner surface of the stent.

52. (canceled) The device of claim 46, wherein a gear axis through a center of the gear is parallel or substantially parallel to and offset from a stent axis through a center of the stent.

53. (currently amended) ~~The device of claim 50,~~ A device for supporting a stent during a coating process, comprising:

a mandrel extending through a hollow body of a stent; and

a gear supported by the mandrel having a diameter greater than a diameter of the mandrel and a diameter smaller than an inner diameter of the stent as positioned on the gear to allow for spacing between a majority of an outer periphery of the gear and an inner surface of the stent for minimizing contact between the outer periphery of the gear and the inner surface of the stent, the gear configured to provide support to the inner surface of the stent during a coating process, wherein a gear axis through a center of the gear is parallel or substantially parallel to and offset from a stent axis through a center of the stent.

54. (new) A device for supporting a stent, comprising:

a mandrel to support a stent during a process of forming a coating on the stent;  
a gear adjustably supported by the mandrel and configured to contact an inner surface of  
the stent; and  
a means for adjusting a position of the gear along a longitudinal axis of the mandrel.